Provision of telephones in the villages of Uttaranchal

†1716. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages/revenue villages likely to be provided with rural telephone facility in the State of Uttaranchal by the end of this year;

(b) whether any time schedule has been fixed to provide telephone to cent per cent villages of this States; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The office of the Administrator, Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has awarded the work of providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in all 3,881 uncovered villages in the State of Uttaranchal. This excludes villages which are depopulated, naxalite/insurgency infested, having population of less than hundred persons and those lying in deep forest areas. It has been planned to provide 20% of the VPTs by November, 2005 and the remaining in a phased manner by November, 2007.

Telephone complaints registered with DET/SDO/GM in Bihar

†1717. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural telephone exchange particularly in Bithauli under Darbhanga in Bihar has no complaint book to register the complaints regarding non-functioning of telephones and due to absence of employees, people register their complaints direct to DET/SDO/GM;

(b) the number of such complaints registered with higher officer during the last one year;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.